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(54) ANTHRAX AND SMALL POX REPLIKINS AND METHODS OF USE

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(58) Field of Classification Search

None

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) ABSTRACT

Isolated peptides of the *Bacillus anthracis* Anthrax Toxin Lethal factor Protein pX01-107, antibodies specific for the peptides and methods of stimulating the immune response of a subject to produce antibodies to the *Bacillus anthracis* Anthrax Toxin Lethal factor Protein pX01-107 are disclosed. Also disclosed are isolated peptides of the Small Pox Virus Surface Antigen S Precursor Protein, antibodies specific for the peptides and methods of stimulating the immune response of a subject to produce antibodies to the Small Pox Virus Surface Antigen S Precursor Protein.

14 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

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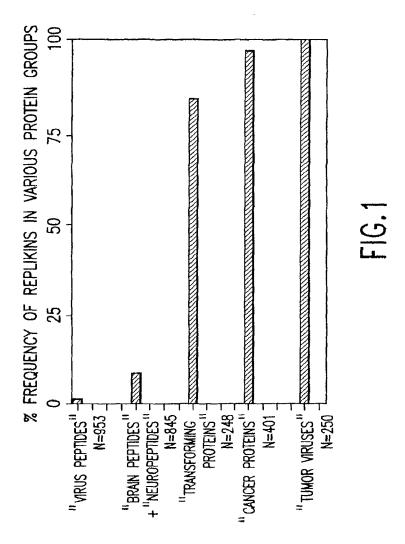
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ENRICHMENT OF MALIGNIN DURING ANAEROBIC REPLICATION OF GLIOBLASTOMA (GLIOMA) CELLS

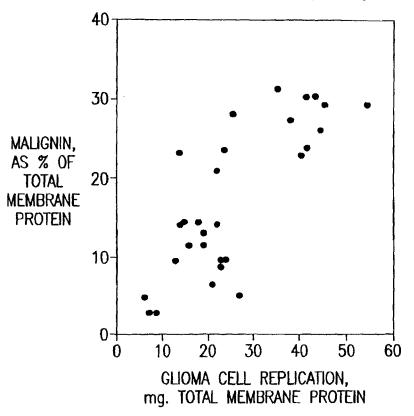
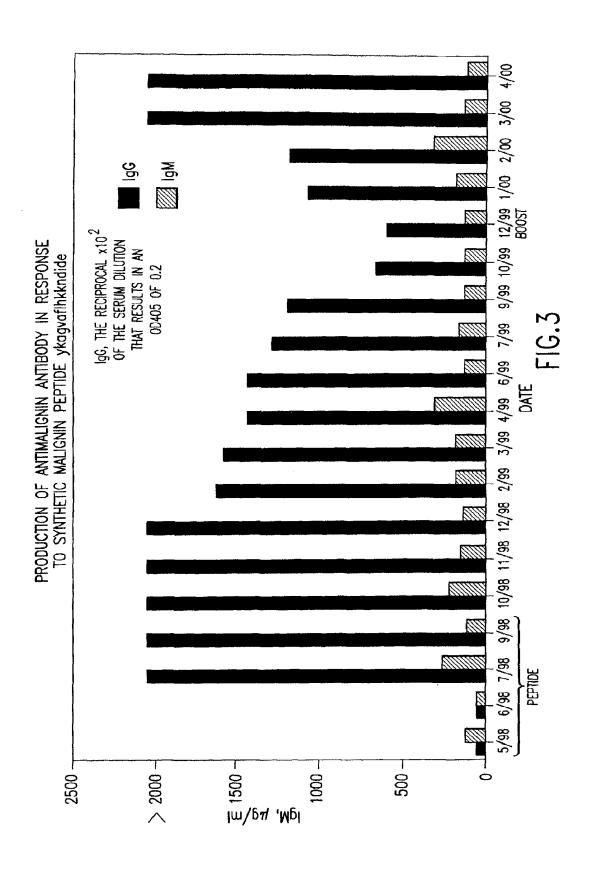


FIG.2



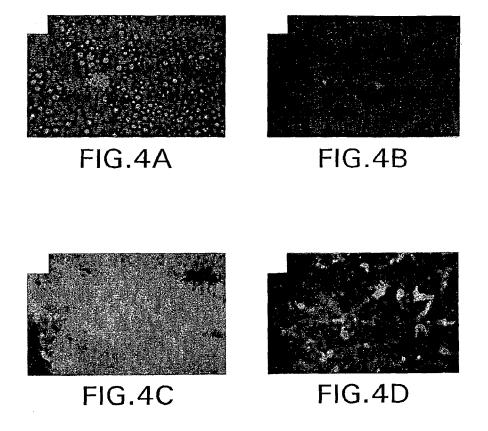
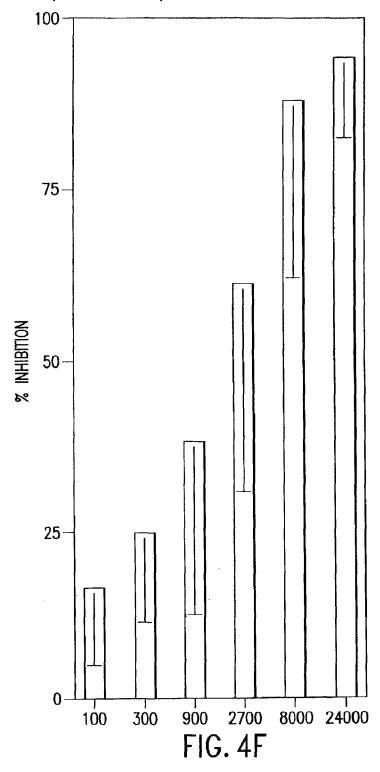




FIG.4E

SPECIFICITY OF BINDING AND CYTOTOXICITY OF ANTIMALIGNIN ANTIBODY TO LEUKEMIC, BRAIN GLIOMA, AND SMALL CELL LUNG CARCINOMA CELLS



ANTIMALIGNIN ANTIBODY IN BENIGN AND MALIGNANT BREAST DISFASE AND POST SURGERY

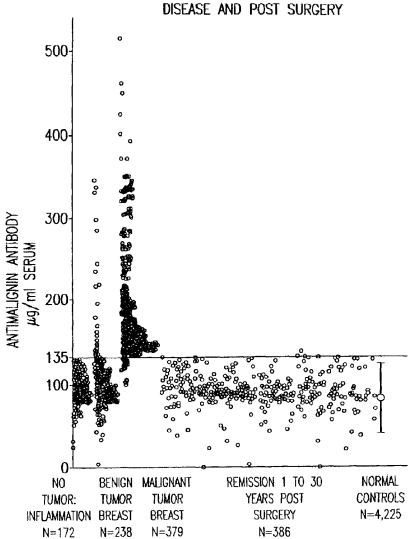


FIG.5

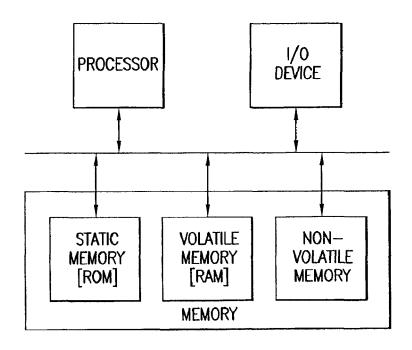


FIG.6

ANTHRAX AND SMALL POX REPLIKINS AND METHODS OF USE

CROSS REFERENCE TO OTHER APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. application Ser. No. 12/688,372, filed Jan. 15, 2010, which is a divisional application of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/615, 578, filed Dec. 22, 2006, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,674,880, which 10 is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 09/984,056, filed Oct. 26, 2001, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,176,275, and claims priority to Provisional Application[s] Ser. Nos. 60/303,396 filed Jul. 9, 2001 and 60/278,761 filed Mar. 27, 2001, which are incorporated herein in their entirety by reference thereto. 15

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to the identification and use of Replikins, a class of peptides that share structural characteristics. In particular, this invention relates to Replikins which have been identified in Bacillus anthracis and Small Pox Virus (Variola).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Glycoprotein 10B is a membrane glycoprotein isolated from brain glioblastoma multiforme, lymphoma and breast cancer cells (U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1). A constituent peptide of Aglyco 10B, malignin, is enriched in cell membranes 35 tenfold during anaerobic replication. Hydrolysis and mass spectrometry of malignin yielded a 16-mer peptide including (SEQ ID NO.: 1) kagvaflhkk. This peptide, which is absent from the normal human genome, was assumed to be acquired.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect of the invention there are provided isolated 45 Bacillus anthracis (Anthrax) peptides containing a replikin sequence. The Anthrax peptides comprise from 7 to about 50 amino acids including (1) at least one lysine residue located six to ten amino acid residues from a second lysine residue; (2) at least one histidine residue; and (3) at least 6% lysine 50 residues. In another embodiment of this aspect of the invention there are provided Small Pox Virus peptides containing a replikin sequence which comprises from 7 to about 50 amino acids including (1) at least one lysine residue located six to ten amino acid residues from a second lysine residue; (2) at least 55 ordinary and fluorescent light. FIG. 4B is a photograph of a one histidine residue; and (3) at least 6% lysine residues.

In another aspect of the invention there is provided a process for stimulating the immune system of a subject to produce antibodies that bind specifically to Anthrax polypeptides containing a replikin sequence, said process comprising 60 administering to the subject an effective amount of a dosage of a composition comprising at least one Anthrax replikin peptide. In a preferred embodiment the composition comprises at least one peptide selected from SEQ ID NO. 91, SEQ ID NO. 92, SEQ ID NO. 93, SEQ ID NO. 94, SEQ ID NO. 95, 65 SEQ ID NO. 96, SEQ ID NO. 79, SEQ ID NO. 98 or a combination thereof.

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In another embodiment of this aspect of the invention there is provided a process for stimulating the immune system of a subject to produce antibodies that bind specifically to Small Pox Virus polypeptides containing a replikin sequence, said process comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a dosage of a composition comprising at least one Small Pox Virus replikin peptide. In a preferred embodiment the composition comprises a peptide selected from SEQ ID NO. 99, SEQ ID NO. 100, SEQ ID NO. 101, SEQ ID NO. 102, SEQ ID NO. 103, or a combination thereof.

In another aspect of the invention there are provided antisense nucleic acid molecules complementary to the coding strand of the gene or to the mRNA encoding the Bacillus anthracis Anthrax Lethal Factor Protein pX01-107 peptide, wherein said antisense nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding the peptide of SEQ ID NO. 91, SEQ ID NO. 92, SEQ ID NO. 93, SEQ ID NO. 94, SEQ ID NO. 95, SEQ ID NO. 96, SEQ ID NO. 97, SEQ ID 20 NO. 98.

There are also provided antisense nucleic acid molecule complementary to the coding strand of the gene or to the mRNA encoding the Small Pox Virus Surface Antigen S Precursor Protein, wherein said antisense nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding the peptide of SEQ ID NO. 99, SEQ ID NO. 100, SEQ ID NO. 101, SEQ ID NO. 102, or SEQ ID NO. 103.

As used herein, the term "peptide" refers to a compound of two or more amino acids in which the carboxyl group of one is united with an amino group of another, forming a peptide bond. The term peptide is also used to denote the amino acid sequence encoding such a compound. Thus, a peptide sequence may be a subsequence of a larger polypeptide sequence. As used herein, a Replikin peptide is peptide consisting essentially of 7 to about 50 amino acid including (1) at least one lysine residue located six to ten amino acid residues from a second lysine residue; (2) at least one histidine residue; and (3) at least 6% lysine residues. Similarly, a replikin sequence is the amino acid sequence encoding such a peptide.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a bar graph depicting the frequency of occurrence of replikins in various protein groups.

FIG. 2 is a graph depicting the percentage of malignin per milligram total membrane protein during anaerobic replication of glioblastoma cells.

FIG. 3 is a bar graph showing amount of antimalignin antibody produced in response to exposure to the recognin

FIG. 4A is a photograph of a blood smear taken with blood smear taken with and fluorescent light illustrating the presence of two leukemic cells. FIG. 4C is a photograph of a dense layer of glioma cells in the presence of antimalignin antibody. FIG. 4D and FIG. 4E are photographs of the layer of cells in FIG. 4C taken at 30 and 45 minutes following addition of antimalignin antibody.

FIG. 4F is a bar graph showing the inhibition of growth of small cell lung carcinoma cells in vitro by antimalignin antibody.

FIG. 5 is a plot of the amount of antimalignin antibody present in the serum of patients with benign or malignant breast disease pre- and post surgery.

FIG. 6 is a box diagram depicting an embodiment of the invention wherein a computer is used to carry out the 3-point-recognition method of identifying replikin and recognin sequences.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect of the invention there is provided a method ¹⁰ for identifying nucleotide or amino acid sequences that include a recognin or replikin sequence. The method is referred to herein as a 3-point-recognition method. By use of the "3-point recognition" method, described herein below, a

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The 16-mer recognin peptide, (SEQ ID NO.: 4) ykagvafl-hkkndide, when synthesized and injected as vaccine into a mammal, has been shown to produce antimalignin antibody, which is cytotoxic to malignant replicating cells of several types at picogram per cell amounts. Replikins identified in organisms such as diatom plankton, *H. pylori*, tomato leaf curl virus, foot and mouth disease virus, hepatitis B and C viruses, and HIV, also are thus targets for diagnosis and treatment or as vaccines for the control of replication of their respective virus source.

Table 1 illustrates the sequence of the malignin peptide, the 16-mer recognin sequence, (SEQ ID NO.: 4) ykagvaflhkkndide.

TABLE 1

				Method By Which Fragment Obtained			
Seq ID NO.	Fragment Identified	MH+ (mass)	Sequence	Auto-hydrolysis of malignin free in solution	Auto-hydrolysis of malignin immobilized on bromoacetyl cellulose	Microwaved 5 seconds	Microwaved 30 seconds
19	1-3	381.21	()yka(g)				+
20	1-5	537.30	()ykagv(a)		+		
21	2-6	445.28	(y)kagva(f)		+		
22	2-7	592.35	(Y)kagvaf(l)			+	
23	4-11	899.55	(a)gvaflhkk(n)				+
24	5-7	336.19	(g)vaf(l)				+
25	6-7	237.12	(v)af(l)	+			
26	6-10	615.36	(v)aflhk(k)				+
27	6-10	615.36	(v)aflhk(k)	+			
28	6-12	857.50	(v)aflhkkn(d)		+		
29	6-12	857.50	(v)afhkkn(d)	+			
30	7-8	279.17	(a)fl(h)			+	
31	10-16	861.43	(h)kkndide()		+		
32	11-14	489.27	(k)kndi(d)		+		
33	12-15	476.2-	(k)ndid(e)	+			

new class of peptides was revealed in algae, yeast, fungi, 45 amoebae, bacteria, plant and virus proteins having replication, transformation, or redox functions. This class of peptides is referred to herein as replikins.

One example of a replikin that was identified by the 3-point-recognition method, is the amino acid sequence, (SEQ ID NO.: 2) hsikrelgiifdk, which occurs in *Saccharomy-ces cerevisiae* "replication binding protein". Five replikins were found in amino acids 1-163 of the "replicating protein" of tomato leaf curl *Gemini vinis*. Amino acids 1-160 of this tomato virus protein bind DNA. Another replikin, (SEQ ID NO.: 3) hkqkivapvk, is highly conserved in 236 isolates of foot and mouth disease virus.

Although replikins were found to be present in only 1.5% of published sequences identified by the PubMed data bank as "virus peptides" as a whole, and in only 8.5% of sequences identified as "brain peptides" plus "neuropeptides", surprisingly, replikins were found in 100% of "tumor viruses", in 85% of "transforming proteins," and 97% of "cancer proteins" (as categorized in the PubMed data bank). The recognin, (SEQ ID NO.: 4) ykagvaflhkkndide, was not found in published sequences of the human genome.

The malignin peptide was isolated from membranes of glioblastoma multiforme (glioma) cells grown in tissue culture (U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1). The sequence of a 16-mer peptide of malignin was determined by hydrolysis and mass spectrometry: (SEQ ID NO.: 4) ykagvaflhkkndide (Table 1). A search of published human genome sequences for sequence encoding the 16-mer amino acid sequence was negative. Since this 16-mer peptide was absent from normal human genome data a search was made of sequences of other organisms for possible origins and homologues. No identical sequences were found. But, using the sequence of the 16-mer peptide as a template, and constructing a "3-point-recognition" method to visually scan protein sequences of several different organisms, a new class of peptides, the replikins, was revealed in organisms as diverse as algae, yeast and viruses. Surprisingly, these peptides were found to be concentrated in larger 'replicating' and 'transforming' proteins (so designated by their investigators, based on activities, see Table 2).

Table 2 illustrates several replikin sequences that were identified by the 3-point-recognition method of the invention.

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TABLE 2

	SEQ ID NO.		
Algae:	34	Caldophera prolifera	kaskftkh
	35	Isolepis prolifera	kaqaetgeikgh
Yeast:	36 2	Schizosaccharomyces pombe Sacch. cerevisiae replication binding protein	ksfkypkkhk hsikrelgiifdk
Fungi:	38	Isocitrate lyase ICI 1, Penicillium marneffei	kvdivthqk
rungi.	39	DNA-dependent RNA polymerase 11, Discula destructiva Ophiostoma novo-ulm 1, RNA in Dutch elm disease	kleedaayhrkk
	40	fungus	kvilplrgnikgiffkh
Amoeba:	41	Entamoeba invadens, histone H2B	klilkgdlnkh
Bacteria:	42	Pribosomal protein replication factor, Helicobacter pylori	ksvhaflk
	10	Replication-associated protein Staph. aureus	kkektthnk
	43	Mycoplasma pulmonic, chromosome replication	kvhffqlkk
	90	Macrophage infectivity potentiator, L. legionella	kihlisvkk
	91	Bacillus anthracis	hvkekeknk
	92	Bacillus anthracis	khivkievk
	93	Bacillus anthracis	kkkikdiygkdallh
	94	Bacillus anthracis	kwekikqh
	95	Bacillus anthracis	kklqipiepkkddiih
	96 97	Bacillus anthracis Bacillus anthracis	hnryasnivesaylilnewkn-n sdlikk havddyagylldknqsdlvt-
	98	Bacillus anthracis	nskk haerlkvqknapk
Plants:	44 45	Arabidopsis thaliana, prolifera	kdhdfdgdk
	46	Arabidopsis thaliana, cytoplasmic ribosomal Arabidopsis thaliana, DNA binding protein	kmkglkqkkah kelssttqeksh
	37	Oryza sativa	kkaygnelhk
Viruses:	9	Replication associated protein A [Maize streak virus]	kekkpskdeimrdiish
	11	Bovine herpes virus 4, DNA replication protein	hkinitngqk
	12	Meleagrid herpesvirus 1, replication binding protein	hkdlyrllmk
	47	Feline immunodeficiency	hlkdyklvk
	3	Foot and Mouth Disease (0)	hkqkivapvk
	5 7	HIV Type 1	kcfncgkegh
	99	HIV Type 2 Small Pox Virus (Variola)	kcwncgkegh khynnitwyk
	100	Small Pox Virus (Variola)	kysqtqkeliih
	101	Small Pox Virus (Variola)	hyddvrikndivvsrck
	102	Small Pox Virus (Variola)	hrfklildsk
	103	Small Pox Virus (Variola)	kerghnyyfek
Tumor	48	Rous sarcoma virus tyrosine-protein kinase	kklrhek
/iruses:	49	v-yes, avian sarcoma	kklrhdk
	50	c-yes, colon cancer, malignant melanoma	kklrhdk
	51 52	v-srcC., avian sarcoma c-src, colon, mammary, panrcreatic cancer	kklrhek kklrhek
	53	Neuroblastoma RAS viral (v-ras) oncogene	kgahelak
	54	VP1 (major capsid protein) [Polyamavirus sp.]	kthrfskh
	55	Sindbis	knlhekik
	56	E1 [Human papilloamavirus type 71]	khrpllqlk
	57	v-erbB from AEV and c-erb	kspnhvk
	58	v-fms (feline sarcoma)	knihlekk
	59	c-fms (acute and chronic myelomonocytic tumors)	knihlekk
	60	large t-antigen I [Polyomavirus sp.1	kphlaqslek
	61	middle t-antigen [Polyomavirus sp,1-	kqhrelkdk
	62	<pre>small t-antigen [Polyomavirus spJ, v-abl, murine acute leukemia</pre>	kqhrelkdk
	63 64	v-abl, murine acute leukemia Human T-cell lymphotropic virus typo 2	kvpvlisptlkh kslllevdkdish
	65	c-kit, GI tumors, small cell lung carcinoma	kagitimvkreyh
	18	Hepatitis C	hyppkpgcivpak
Trans-	66	Transforming protein myb	ksgkhlgk
forming	67	Transforming protein myc, Burkitt lymphoma	krreqlkhk
Proteins:	68	Ras-related GTP-binding protein	ksfevikvih
	69	Transforming protein ras (teratocarcinoma)	kkkhtvkk
	70	TRAF-associated NF•kB activator TANK	kaqkdhlsk
		RFP transforming protein	hlkrvkdlkk
	71 72	Transforming protein D (S.C.)	kygspkhrlik

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(SEQ ID No.: 1)					
	SEQ II NO.				
	73	Papilloma virus type 11, transforming protein	klkhilqkarfik		
	74	Protein tryosine kinasc (EC 2.7.1.112slk	kqdhvkhykirk		
	75	Transforming protein (ax1(-))	keklrdvmvdrhk		
	76	Transforming protein (M-myc)	klgargggllkkieh		
	77	Fibroblast growth factor 4 (Kaposi sarcoma)	kkgnrvsptmkvth		
Cancer Cell	78	Matrix metaloproteinase 7 (uterine)	keiplhfrk		
roteins:	79	Transcription factor 7-like	kkkphikk		
	80	Breast cancer antigen NY-BR-87	ktrhdplak		
	81	BRCA-1-Associated Ring Domain Protein (breast)	khhpkdnlik		
	82	'Autoantigen from a breast tumor'	khkrkkfrqk		
	83	Glioma replikin (this study)	kagvaflhkk		
	84	Ovarian cancer antigen	khkrkkfrqk		
	85	EE L leukemia	kkkskkhkdk		
	86	Proto-oncogene tyrosine-protein kinase C-ABLE	hksekpalprk		
	87	Adenomatosis polyposis coli	kkkkpsrlkgdnek		
	88	Gastric cancer transforming protein	ktkkgnrvsptmkvth		
	89	Transforming protein (K-RAS 2B), lung	khkekmskdgkkkkkksk		

Identification of an amino acid sequence as a replikin or as containing a replikin, i.e., a homologue of the malignin 16-mer peptide, requires that the three following "3-point recognition" requirements be met. The peptide sequence must have (1) at least one lysine residue located six to ten residues from another lysine residue; (2) at least one histidine residue; and (3) a composition of at least 6% lysine within an amino acid sequence of 7 to about 50 residues.

Databases were searched using the National Library of Medicine keyword "PubMed" descriptor for protein sequences containing replikin sequences. Sequences of all 35 individual proteins within each group of PubMed-classified proteins were visually scanned for peptides meeting the three above-listed requirements. An infrequent occurrence of homologues was observed in "virus peptides" as a whole (1.5%), and in other peptides not designated as associated 40 with malignant transformation or replication such as "brain peptides" and "neuropeptides" (together 8.5%). Surprisingly, homologues were identified in 100% of "tumor viruses", in 85% of "transforming proteins", and in 97% of "cancer cell proteins" (FIG. 1). The peptides identified by this search were 45 named replikins, and a ten amino acid portion of the 16-mer peptide, (SEQ ID NO.: 1) "kagvaflhkk", was named the glioma replikin.

To permit classification of subtypes of replikins, additional or "auxiliary specifications" to the basic "3-point-recognition" requirements may be added: (a) on a structural basis, such as the common occurrence of adjacent di- and polylysines in cancer cell proteins (e.g., Transforming protein P21B(K-RAS 2B), lung, Table 2, SEQ ID NO.: 89), and other adjacent di-amino acids in TOLL-like receptors, or b) on a 55 functional basis, such as exhibiting ATPase, tyrosine kinase or redox activity as seen in Table 2.

Whether replikin structures are conserved or are subject to extensive natural mutation was examined by scanning the protein sequences of various isolates of foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV), where mutations in proteins of these viruses have been well documented worldwide for decades. Protein sequences of FMDV isolates were visually examined for the presence of both the entire replikin and each of the component replikin amino acid residues observed in a particular replikin. For example, in the protein VP1 of FMDV type 0, the replikin (SEQ ID NO.: 3) "hkqkivapvk" was found

to be conserved in 78% of the 236 isolates reported in PubMed, and each amino acid was found to be conserved in individual isolates as follows: his, 95.6%; lys, 91.8%; gln 92.3%; lys, 84.1%; ile, 90.7%; val, 91.8%; ala, 97.3%; pro, 96.2%; ala, 75.4%; and lys, 88.4%. The high rate of conservation suggests structural and functional stability of the replikin structure. Similarly, sequence conservation was observed in different isolates of HIV for its replikins, such as (SEQ ID NO.: 5) "kcfncgkegh" or (SEQ ID NO.: 6) "kvylawvpahk" in HIV Type 1 and (SEQ ID NO.: 7) "kewnegkegh" in HIV Type 2 (Table 2). Other examples of conservation are seen in the constant presence of malignin in successive generations, over 10 years of tissue culture of glioma cells, and by the constancy of affinity of the glioma replikin for antimalignin antibody isolated by immunoadsorption from 8,090 human sera from the U.S., U.K., Europe and Asia (e.g., FIG. 5 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B 1).

As seen in FIG. 2, during anaerobic respiration when the rate of cell replication is increased, malignin is enriched. That is, malignin is found to increase not simply in proportion to the increase in cell number and total membrane proteins, but is enriched as much as tenfold in concentration, starting with 3% at rest and reaching 30% of total membrane protein. This clear demonstration of a marked increase in replikin concentration with glioma cell replication points to and is consistent with the presence of replikins here sought by the 3-point recognition method and found in the proteins of various organisms which were found by mutation studies and other previous studies to be critical to replication. For example, replikins were identified in such proteins as "Saccharomyces cerevisiae replication binding protein" (SEQ ID NO.: 2) (hsikrelgiifdk); the "replication associated protein A of maize streak virus" (SEQ ID NO.: 8) (kyivcareahk and (SEQ ID NO.: 9) kekkpskdeimrdiish); the "replication-associated protein of Staphylococcus aureus" (SEQ ID NO.: 10) (kkektthnk); the "DNA replication protein of bovine herpes virus 4" (SEQ ID NO.: 11) (hkinitngqk); and the "Mealigrid herpes virus 1 replication binding protein" (SEQ ID NO.: 12) (hkdlyrllmk). Previous studies of tomato leaf curl gemini virus show that the regulation of virus accumulation appears to involve binding of amino acids 1-160 of the "replicating protein" of that virus to leaf DNA and to other replication protein molecules during virus replication. Analysis of this

sequence showed that amino acids 1-163 of this "replicating protein" contain five replikins, namely: (SEQ ID NO.: 13) kfrinaknyfltyph, (SEQ ID NO.: 14) knletpvnklfiricrefh, (SEQ ID NO.: 15) hpniqaaksstdvk, (SEQ ID NO.: 16) ksstdvkaymdkdgdvldh, and (SEQ ID NO.: 17) kasalnilrekapkdfvlqfh.

Table 2 shows that replikin-containing proteins also are associated frequently with redox functions, and protein synthesis or elongation, as well as with cell replication. The association with metal-based redox functions, the enrichment of the replikin-containing glioma malignin concentration 10 during anaerobic replication, and the cytotoxicity of antimalignin at low concentrations (picograms/cell) (FIG. 4c-f), all suggest that the replikins are related to central respiratory functions, which are perhaps less often subjected to the mutations characteristic of proteins of more superficial location or 15 less central survival function.

Of particular interest were eight different replikins identified in *Bacillus anthracis*, the organism responsible for anthrax infections; and five different replikins identified in small pox virus. The eight *Bacillus anthracis* peptides are 20 present in the Anthrax Toxin Lethal Factor Protein pX01-107 and have the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 91, SEQ ID NO.92, SEQ ID NO. 93, SEQ ID NO. 94, SEQ ID NO. 95, SEQ ID NO. 96, SEQ ID NO. 97 and SEQ ID NO. 98, respectively. The five small pox virus peptides are present in 25 the Small Pox Virus Surface Antigen S Precursor Protein, which purportedly enhances Small Pox Virus replication. The five peptides have the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 99, SEQ ID NO. 100, SEQ ID NO.101, SEQ ID NO. 102 and SEQ ID NO. 103, respectively.

Data on anti-replikin antibodies support replikin class unity. An anti-replikin antibody response has been quantified by immunoadsorption of serum antimalignin antibody to immobilized malignin (see Methods in U.S. Pat. No. 5,866, 690). The abundant production of antimalignin antibody by 35 administration to rabbits of the synthetic version of the 16-mer peptide whose sequence was derived from malignin, absent carbohydrate or other groups, has established rigorously that this peptide alone is an epitope, that is, it is a sufficient basis for this immune response (FIG. 3). The 40 16-mer peptide produced both IgM and IgG forms of the antibody. Antimalignin antibody was found to be increased in concentration in serum in 37% of 79 cases in the U.S. and Asia of hepatitis B and C, early, in the first five years of infection, long before the usual observance of liver cancer, 45 which develops about fifteen to twenty-five years after infection. Relevant to both infectious hepatitis and HIV infections. transformed cells may be one form of safe haven for the virus: prolonging cell life and avoiding virus eviction, so that the virus remains inaccessible to anti-viral treatment.

A synthetic replikin vaccine such as the glioma replikin (SEQ ID NO.: 1) "kagvaflhkk" or the hepatitis C replikin (SEQ ID NO.: 18) "hyppkpgcivpak", or HIV replikins such as (SEQ ID NO.: 5) "kcfncgkegh" or (SEQ ID NO.: 6) "kvylawvpahk" may be used to augment antibody concentration in order to lyse the respective virus infected cells and release virus extracellularly where chemical treatment can then be effective. Recognin and/or replikin peptides may be administered to a subject to induce the immune system of the subject to produce anti-replikin and/or anti-recognin antibodies. 60 Generally, a 0.5 to about 2 mg dosage, preferably a 1 mg dosage of each peptide is administered to the subject to induce an immune response. Subsequent dosages may be administered if desired.

In another embodiment of the invention, isolated recognin 65 or replikin peptides may be used to generate antibodies. Various procedures known in the art may be used for the produc-

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tion of antibodies to replikin sequences or recognin sequences. Such antibodies include but are not limited polyclonal, monoclonal, chimeric, humanized, single chain, Fab fragments and fragments produced by an Fab expression library. Antibodies that are linked to a cytotoxic agent may also be generated.

For the production of antibodies various host animals may be immunized by injection with a replikin or recognin peptide, including but not limited to rabbits, mice, rats, and larger mammals. Various adjuvants may be used to enhance the immunological response, depending on the host species, including but not limited to Freund's (complete and incomplete), mineral gels, such as aluminum hydroxide, surface active substances such as lysolecithin, pluronic polyols, polyanions, peptides, oil emulsions, key limpet hemocyanin, dintrophenol, and potentially useful human adjuvants such as BCG and *Corynebacterium parvum*.

Monoclonal antibodies to replikins or recognins may be prepared by using any technique that provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture. These include but are not limited to the hybridoma technique originally described by Kohler and Milstein, (Nature, 1975, 256:495-497), the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kosbor et al., 1983, Immunology Today, 4:72), and the EBV hybridoma technique (Cole et al., Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy, Alan R. Liss, Inc., pp. 77-96). In addition, techniques developed for the production of chimeric antibodies (Morrison et al., 1984, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci USA, 81:6851-6855) may be used. Alternatively, techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Pat. No. 4,946,778) can be adapted to produce replikin- or recognin-specific single chain antibodies.

Particularly useful antibodies of the invention are those that specifically bind to replikin sequences contained in peptides and/or polypeptides of *Bacillus anthracis*. For example, antibodies to any of peptides SEQ ID NO. 91, SEQ ID NO.92, SEQ ID NO. 93, SEQ ID NO. 94, SEQ ID NO. 95, SEQ ID NO. 96, SEQ ID NO. 97, SEQ ID NO. 98 and combinations of such antibodies are useful in the treatment and/or prevention of anthrax.

Similarly, antibodies to peptides SEQ ID NO. 99, SEQ ID NO. 100, SEQ ID NO. 101, SEQ ID NO. 102, SEQ ID NO.103 and combinations of such antibodies are useful in the treatment and/or prevention of small pox.

Antibody fragments which contain binding sites for a replikin or recognin may be generated by known techniques. For example, such fragments include but are not limited to F(ab')₂ fragments which can be produced by pepsin digestion of the antibody molecules and the Fab fragments that can be generated by reducing the disulfide bridges of the F(ab')₂ fragments. Alternatively, Fab expression libraries can be generated (Huse et al., 1989, Science, 246:1275-1281) to allow rapid and easy identification of monoclonal Fab fragments with the desired specificity.

The fact that antimalignin antibody is increased in concentration in human malignancy regardless of cancer cell type (FIG. 5), and that this antibody binds to malignant cells regardless of cell type now may be explained by the presence of the replikin structures present in most malignancies (FIG. 1 and Table 2). Population studies have shown that antimalignin antibody increases in concentration in healthy adults with age, and more so in high-risk families, as the frequency of cancer increases. An additional two-fold or greater antibody increase which occurs in early malignancy has been independently confirmed with a sensitivity of 97% in breast cancers 1-10 mm in size. Shown to localize preferentially in malignant cells in vivo, histochemically the antibody does not

bind to normal cells but selectively binds to (FIG. 4*a*,*b*) and is highly cytotoxic to transformed cells in vitro (FIG. 4*c*-*f*). Since in these examples the same antibody is bound by several cell types, that is, brain glioma, hematopoietic cells (leukemia), and small cell carcinoma of lung, malignant replikin ⁵ class unity is again supported.

Antimalignin does not increase with benign proliferation. but specifically increases only with malignant transformation and replication in breast in vivo and returns from elevated to normal values upon elimination of malignant cells (FIG. 5). Antimalignin antibody concentration has been shown to relate quantitatively to the survival of cancer patients, that is, the more antibody, the longer the survival. Taken together, these results suggest that antireplikin antibodies may be a part of a mechanism of control of cell transformation and replication. Augmentation of this immune response may be useful in the control of replication, either actively with synthetic replikins as vaccines, or passively by the administration of antireplikin antibodies, or by the introduction of non-immune 20 based organic agents, such as for example, carbohydrates, lipids and the like, which are similarly designed to target the replikin specifically. For organisms such as diatom plankton, foot and mouth disease virus, tomato leaf curl gemini virus, hepatitis B and C, and HIV, and malignant cells, identified $\,^{25}$ constituent replikins are useful as vaccines, and also may be usefully targeted for diagnostic purposes.

The replikin sequence structure is associated with the function of replication. Thus, whether the replikins of this invention are used for targeting sequences that contain replikins for the purpose of diagnostic identification, promoting replication, or inhibiting or attacking replication, for example, the structure-function relationship of the replikin is fundamental. Thus, while the structure of the replikin may be a part of a larger protein sequence, which may have been previously identified, it is necessary to utilize only the specific replikin structure when seeking to induce antibodies that will recognize and attach to the replikin fragment and thereby cause destruction of the cell. Even though the larger protein 40 sequence may be known in the art as having a "replication associated function," vaccines using the larger protein often have failed or proven ineffective, even though they contain one or more replikin sequences.

Although the present inventors do not wish to be held to a single theory, the studies herein suggest that the prior art vaccines are ineffective because they are based on the use of the larger protein sequence. The larger protein sequence invariably has one or more epitopes (independent antigenic sequences that can induce specific antibody formation); replikin structures usually comprise one of these potential epitopes. The presence of other epitopes within the larger protein may interfere with adequate formation of antibodies to the replikin, See, e.g., Webster, R. G., J. Immunol., 97(2): 177-183 (1966); and Webster et al., J. Infect. Dis., 134:48-58, 55 1976; Klenerman et al, Nature 394:421-422 (1998) for a discussion of the well-known phenomenon "original antigenic sin"). The formation of an antibody to a non-replikin epitope may allow binding to the cell, but not necessarily lead to cell destruction.

It is well known in the art that in the course of antibody production against a "foreign" protein, the protein is first hydrolyzed into smaller fragments. Usually fragments containing from about six to ten amino acids are selected for antibody formation. Thus, if hydrolysis of a protein does not 65 result in replikin-containing fragments, anti-replikin antibodies will not be produced. In this regard, it is interesting that

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replikins contain lysine residues located six to ten amino acids apart, since lysine residues are known to bind to membranes

Furthermore, replikin sequences contain at least one histidine residue. Histidine is frequently involved in binding to redox centers. Thus, an antibody that specifically recognizes a replikin sequence has a better chance of inactivating or destroying the cell in which the replikin is located, as seen with anti-malignin antibody, which is perhaps the most cytotoxic antibody yet described, being active at picograms per cell

One of the reasons that vaccines directed towards a particular protein antigen of a disease causing agent have not been fully effective in providing protection against the disease (such as foot and mouth vaccine which has been developed against the VP1 protein or large segments of the VP1 protein) is that antibody to the replikins have not been produced. That is, either epitopes other than replikins present in the larger protein fragments may interfere according to the phenomenon of "original antigenic sin", and/or because the hydrolysis of larger protein sequences into smaller sequences for processing to produce antibodies results in loss of integrity of any replikin structure that is present, e.g., the replikin is cut in two and/or the histidine residue is lost in the hydrolytic processing. The present studies suggest that for an effective vaccine to be produced, the replikin sequences, and no other epitope, should be used as the vaccine. For example, a vaccine of the invention can be generated using any one of the replikin peptides identified by the three point recognition system. Particularly preferred peptides for an anthrax vaccine include peptides SEQ ID NO. 91, SEQ ID NO. 92, SEQ ID NO. 93, SEQ ID NO. 94, SEQ ID NO. 95, SEQ ID NO. 96, SEQ ID NO.97, SEQ ID NO.98, and combinations thereof. Preferred peptides for use as a small pox vaccine are peptides SEQ ID NO. 99, SEQ ID NO. 100, SEQ ID NO. 101, SEQ ID NO. 102, SEQ ID NO. 103 and combinations thereof. These peptides, alone or in various combinations are administered to a subject, preferably by i.v. or intramuscular injection, in order to stimulate the immune system of the subject to produce antibodies to the peptide. Generally the dosage of peptides is in the range of from about 0.1 µg to about 10 mg, preferably about 10 µg to about 1 mg, and most preferably about 50 µg to about 500 ug. The skilled practitioner can readily determine the dosage and number of dosages needed to produce an effective immune response.

Replikin or recognin DNA or RNA may have a number of uses for the diagnosis of diseases resulting from infection with a virus, bacterium or other replikin or recognin encoding agent. For example, replikin or recognin nucleotide sequences may be used in hybridization assays of biopsied tissue to diagnose the presence of a particular organism, e.g., Southern or Northern analysis, including in situ hybridization assays

to the replikin, See, e.g., Webster, R. G., J. Immunol., 97(2): 177-183 (1966); and Webster et al., J. Infect. Dis., 134:48-58, 55 56 5796; Klenerman et al, Nature 394:421-422 (1998) for a discussion of the well-known phenomenon "original antigenic sin"). The formation of an antibody to a non-replikin epitope may allow binding to the cell, but not necessarily lead to cell destruction.

It is well known in the art that in the course of antibody production against a "foreign" protein, the protein is first hydrolyzed into smaller fragments. Usually fragments consultations.

Also within the scope of the invention are oligoribonucle-otide sequences, that include antisense RNA and DNA molecules and ribozymes that function to inhibit the translation of replikin- or recognin-containing mRNA. Both antisense RNA and DNA molecules and ribozymes may be prepared by any method known in the art. The antisense molecules can be incorporated into a wide variety of vectors for delivery to a subject. The skilled practitioner can readily determine the best route of delivery, although generally i.v. or i.m. delivery is routine. The dosage amount is also readily ascertainable.

Particularly preferred antisense nucleic acid molecules are those that are complementary to a mRNA encoding a *Bacillus anthracis* polypeptide comprising a replikin sequence comprising from 7 to about 50 amino acids including (1) at least

one lysine residue located six to ten residues from a second lysine residue; (2) at least one histidine residue; and (3) at least 6% lysine residues. More preferred are antisense nucleic acid molecules that are complementary to the coding strand of the gene or to the mRNA encoding the Bacillus anthracis 5 Anthrax Lethal Factor Protein pX01-107 peptide, wherein the antisense nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding the peptide of SEQ ID NO. 91, SEQ ID NO. 92, SEQ ID NO. 93, SEQ ID NO. 94, SEQ ID NO. 95, SEQ ID NO. 96, SEQ ID NO. 97, or SEQ ID NO. 98.

Another preferred set of antisense nucleic acid molecules includes those that are complementary to a mRNA encoding a Small Pox Virus polypeptide comprising a replikin sequence comprising from 7 to about 50 amino acids including (1) at least one lysine residue located six to ten residues 15 from a second lysine residue; (2) at least one histidine residue; and (3) at least 6% lysine residues. More preferred are antisense nucleic acid molecules that are complementary to the coding strand of the gene or to the mRNA encoding the Small Pox Virus Surface Antigen S Precursor Protein, wherein the 20 antisense nucleic acid molecule is complementary to a nucleotide sequence encoding the peptide of SEQ ID NO. 99, SEQ ID NO. 100, SEQ ID NO. 101, SEQ ID NO. 102, or SEQ ID NO. 103.

In another embodiment of the invention, immune serum 25 containing antibodies to one or more replikin obtained from an individual exposed to one or more replikins may be used to induce passive immunity in another individual or animal. Immune serum may be administered via i.v. to a subject in need of treatment. Passive immunity also can be achieved by injecting a recipient with preformed antibodies to one or more replikins. Passive immunization may be used to provide immediate protection to individuals who have been exposed to an infectious organism. Administration of immune serum or preformed antibodies is routine and the skilled practitioner 35 can readily ascertain the amount of serum or antibodies needed to achieve the desired effect.

Visual scanning of over three thousand sequences was performed in developing the present 3-point-recognition methods. However, data banks comprising nucleotide and/or 40 amino acid sequences can also be scanned by computer for the presence of sequences meeting the 3 point recognition requirements.

The three point recognition method may also be modified to identify other useful compounds of covalently linked 45 distilled water; organic molecules, including other covalently linked amino acids, nucleotides, carbohydrates, lipids or combinations thereof. In this embodiment of the invention a sequence is screened for subsequences containing three or more desired structural characteristics. In the case of screening compounds 50 composed of covalently linked amino acids, lipids or carbohydrates the subsequence of 7 to about 50 covalently linked units should contain (1) at least one first amino acid, carbohydrate or lipid residue located six to ten residues from a second of the first amino acid, carbohydrate or lipid residue; 55 made up in 2460 ml of distilled water (1.0 molar, pH 1.0). (2) at least one second amino acid, lipid or carbohydrate residue; and (3) at least 6% of the first amino acid, carbohydrate or lipid residue. In the case of screening nucleotide sequences, the subsequence of about 21 to about 150 nucleotides should contain (1) at least one first amino acid residue 60 located within eighteen to thirty nucleotides from a second codon encoding the first amino acid residue; (2) at least one second amino acid residue; and (3) encodes at least 6% of said first amino acid residue.

According to another embodiment of the invention, the 65 methods described herein may be performed by a computer. FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a computer available for use with

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the foregoing embodiments of the present invention. The computer may include a processor, an input/output device and a memory storing executable program instructions representing the 3-point-recognition methods of the foregoing embodiments. The memory may include a static memory, volatile memory and/or a nonvolatile memory. The static memory conventionally may be a read only memory ("ROM") provided on a magnetic, or an electrical or optical storage medium. The volatile memory conventionally may be a random access memory ("RAM") and may be integrated as a cache within the processor or provided externally from the processor as a separate integrated circuit. The non-volatile memory may be an electrical, magnetic or optical storage medium.

Example 1

Process for Extraction, Isolation and Identification of Replikins and the Use of Replikins to Target, Label or Destroy Replikin-Containing Organisms

a) Algae

The following algae were collected from Bermuda water sites and either extracted on the same day or frozen at -20 degrees C. and extracted the next day. The algae were homogenized in a cold room (at 0 to 5 degrees C.) in 1 gram aliquots in neutral buffer, for example 100 cc. of 0.005M phosphate buffer solution, pH7 ("phosphate buffer") for 15 minutes in a Waring blender, centrifuged at 3000 rpm, and the supernatant concentrated by perevaporation and dialyzed against phosphate buffer in the cold to produce a volume of approximately 15 ml. The volume of this extract solution was noted and an aliquot taken for protein analysis, and the remainder was fractionated to obtain the protein fraction having a pK range between 1 and 4. The preferred method of fractionation is chromatography as follows:

The extract solution is fractionated in the cold room (4 degrees C.) on a DEAE cellulose (Cellex-D) column 2.5× 11.0 cm, which has been equilibrated with 0.005M phosphate buffer. Stepwise eluting solvent changes are made with the following solutions:

Solution 1—4.04 g. NaH2PO4 and 0.5 g NaH2PO4 are dissolved in 15 liters of distilled water (0.005 molar, pH7);

Solution 2—8.57 g. NaH2PO4 is dissolved in 2,480 ml. of

Solution 3—17.1 g. of NaH2PO4 is dissolved in 2480 ml of distilled water (0.05 molar, pH 4.7);

Solution 4—59.65 g. of NaH2PO4 is dissolved in 2470 ml distilled water (0.175 molar);

Solution 5—101.6 g. of NaH2PO4 is dissolved in 2455 ml distilled water (pH 4.3);

Solution 6-340.2 g. of NaH2PO4 is dissolved in 2465 of distilled water (1.0 molar, pX-i 4.1);

Solution 7—283.63 g. of 80% phosphoric acid (H3PO4) is

The extract solution, in 6 to 10 ml volume, is passed onto the column and overlayed with Solution 1, and a reservoir of 300 ml of Solution 1 is attached and allowed to drip by gravity onto the column. Three ml aliquots of eluant are collected and analyzed for protein content at OD 280 until all of the protein to be removed with Solution 1 has been removed from the column. Solution 2 is then applied to the column, followed in succession by Solutions 3, 4, 5, 6 aid 7 until all of the protein which can, be removed with each Solution is removed from the column. The eluates from Solution 7 are combined, dialyzed against phosphate buffer, the protein content determined of both dialysand and dialyzate, and both analyzed by

16 specific antibody to the 16-mer Replikin is shown in Example 6 and FIGS. 9A and 9B of U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1.

gel electrophoresis. One or two bands of peptide or protein of molecular weight between 3,000 and 25,000 Daltons are obtained in Solution 7. For example the algae Caulerpa mexicana, Laurencia obtura, Cladophexa prolifera, Sargassum natans, Caulerpa verticillata, Halimeda tuna, and Penicillos 5 capitatus, after extraction and treatment as above, all demonstrated in Solution 7 eluates sharp peptide bands in this molecular weight region with no contaminants. These Solution 7 proteins or their eluted bands are hydrolyzed, and the amino acid composition determined. The peptides so obtained, which have a lysine composition of 6% or greater are Replikin precursors. These Replikin peptide precursors are then determined for amino acid sequence by hydrolysis and mass spectrometry as detailed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1. Those which fulfill the criteria defined by the "3-point-15" recognition" method are identified as Replikins. This procedure can also be applied to obtain yeast, bacterial and any plant Replikins.

As an example of the use of agents to label Replikins: The use of antibodies to the 16-mer Replikin to label specific cells which contain this Replikin is shown in FIG. 5 and Example 6 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1.

h) Virus

As an example of the use of agents to destroy Replikins: The use of antibodies to the 16-mer Replikin to inhibit or destroy specific cells which contain this Replikin is shown in FIG. 6 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1.

Using the same extraction and column chromatography ²⁰ separation methods as above in a) for algae, Replikens in virus-infected cells are isolated and identified.

From a proteomic point of view the construction of a "3-point recognition" template based on the new glioma peptide sequence led directly to identification of a biology-wide class of proteins having related structures and functions. The operation of the 3-point-recognition method resembles identification by the use of a "keyword" search; but instead of using the exact spelling of the keyword "kagvafihkk" as in a typical sequence homology search, or in the nucleotide specification of an amino acid, an abstraction of the keyword delimited by the "3-point-recognition" parameters is used. This delimited abstraction, although derived from a single relatively short amino acid sequence leads to identification of a class of proteins with structures that are defined by the same specifications. That particular functions, in this case transformation and replication, in addition to structures, turn out also to be shared by members of the exposed class suggests that these structures and functions are related. Thus, from this newly identified short peptide sequence, a molecular recognition 'language' has been formulated, which previously has not been described. Further, the sharing of immunological specificity by diverse members of the class, as here demonstrated for the cancer replikins, suggests that B cells and their product antibodies recognize replikins by means of a similar recognition language. Since "3-point-recognition" is a proteomic method that specifies a particular class of proteins, using three or more different recognition points for other peptides similarly should provide useful information concerning other proteins classes. Further, the "3-point-recognition" method is applicable to other recognins, for example to the TOLL 'innate' recognition of lipopolyssacharides of organisms.

c) Tumor Cells In Vivo and In Vitro Tissue Culture

Several embodiments of the present invention are specifically illustrated and described herein. However, it will be appreciated that modifications and variations of the present invention are encompassed by the above teachings and within the purview of the appended claims without departing from the spirit and intended scope of the invention.

Using the same extraction and column chromatography separation methods as above in a) for algae, Replikins in 25 tumor cells are isolated and identified. For example, Replikin precursors of Astrocytin isolated from malignant brain tumors, Malignin (Aglyco 10B) isolated from glioblastoma tumor cells in tissue culture, MCF7 mammary carcinoma cells in tissue culture, and P₃J Lymphoma cells in tissue oculture each treated as above in a) yielded Replikin precursors with lysine content of 9.1%, 6.7%, 6.7%, and 6.5% respectively. Hydrolysis and mass spectrometry of Aglyco 10B as described in Example 10 U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1 produced the amino acid sequence, ykagvaflhkkndiide the 35 16-mer Replikin.

Example 2

As an example of diagnostic use of Replikins: Aglyco 1OB 40 or the 16-mer Repliken may be used as antigen to capture and quantify the amount of its corresponding antibody present in serum for diagnostic purposes are as shown in FIGS. 2, 3, 4 and 7 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,242,578 B1,

As an example of the production of agents to attach to 45 Replikins for labeling, nutritional or destructive purposes: Injection of the 16-mer Replikin into rabbits to produce the

SEQUENCE LISTING

-continued

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1 5
<210> SEQ ID NO 87
<211> LENGTH: 14
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
<400> SEQUENCE: 87
Lys Lys Lys Pro Ser Arg Leu Lys Gly Asp Asn Glu Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 88
<211> LENGTH: 16
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
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Lys Thr Lys Lys Gly Asn Arg Val Ser Pro Thr Met Lys Val Thr His 1 \phantom{\bigg|} 5
<210> SEQ ID NO 89
<211> LENGTH: 18
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
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Lys His Lys Glu Lys Met Ser Lys Asp Gly Lys Lys Lys Lys Lys
Ser Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 90
<211> LENGTH: 9
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Legionella sp.
<400> SEQUENCE: 90
Lys Ile His Leu Ile Ser Val Lys Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 91
<211> LENGTH: 9
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
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His Val Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Asn Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 92
<211> LENGTH: 9
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<213 > ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
<400> SEQUENCE: 92
Lys His Ile Val Lys Ile Glu Val Lys
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<211> LENGTH: 15
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
<400> SEQUENCE: 93
Lys Lys Lys Ile Lys Asp Ile Tyr Gly Lys Asp Ala Leu Leu His
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<211> LENGTH: 8
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
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Lys Trp Glu Lys Ile Lys Gln His
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<211> LENGTH: 16
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
<400> SEQUENCE: 95
Lys Lys Leu Gln Ile Pro Ile Glu Pro Lys Lys Asp Asp Ile Ile His 1 \phantom{\bigg|} 10 \phantom{\bigg|} 15
<210> SEQ ID NO 96
<211> LENGTH: 30
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
<400> SEQUENCE: 96
His Asn Arg Tyr Ala Ser Asn Ile Val Glu Ser Ala Tyr Leu Ile Leu
1
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Asn Glu Trp Lys Asn Asn Ile Gln Ser Asp Leu Ile Lys Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 97
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<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
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His Ala Val Asp Asp Tyr Ala Gly Tyr Leu Leu Asp Lys Asn Gln Ser
Asp Leu Val Thr Asn Ser Lys Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 98
<211> LENGTH: 13
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus anthracis
<400> SEQUENCE: 98
His Ala Glu Arg Leu Lys Val Gln Lys Asn Ala Pro Lys
                5
<210> SEQ ID NO 99
<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Variola virus
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Lys His Tyr Asn Asn Ile Thr Trp Tyr Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 100
<211> LENGTH: 12
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Variola virus
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Lys Tyr Ser Gln Thr Gly Lys Glu Leu Ile Ile His
<210> SEQ ID NO 101
<211> LENGTH: 17
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Variola virus
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His Tyr Asp Asp Val Arg Ile Lys Asn Asp Ile Val Val Ser Arg Cys 1 \phantom{\bigg|} 10 \phantom{\bigg|} 15
Lys
<210> SEO ID NO 102
<211> LENGTH: 10
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Variola virus
<400> SEQUENCE: 102
His Arg Phe Lys Leu Ile Leu Asp Ser Lys
<210> SEQ ID NO 103
<211> LENGTH: 11
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Variola virus
<400> SEQUENCE: 103
Lys Glu Arg Gly His Asn Tyr Tyr Phe Glu Lys
                 5
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What is claimed is:

- 1. An isolated antibody that specifically binds to a peptide sequence consisting of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 99-103.
- 2. An antibody cocktail comprising a plurality of isolated antibodies of claim 1.
- 3. A composition comprising the isolated antibody of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.
- 4. A composition comprising the antibody cocktail of claim2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.
- **5**. The isolated antibody of claim **1** wherein the n-terminus of said peptide sequence is a lysine residue and the c-terminus of said small pox virus peptide sequence is a lysine residue.
- **6**. The isolated antibody of claim **1** wherein the n-terminus of said peptide sequence is a histidine residue and the c-terminus of said peptide sequence is a lysine residue.
- 7. The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein the n-terminus of said peptide sequence is a lysine residue and the c-terminus of said peptide sequence is a histidine residue.

- **8**. The isolated antibody of claim **6** or **7** wherein said peptide sequence comprises no more than two lysine residues.
- **9**. The isolated antibody of claim **6** or **7** wherein said peptide sequence comprises no more than one histidine residue.
- 10. The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein said peptide sequence consists of SEQ ID NO: 99.
- 11. The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein said peptide sequence consists of SEQ ID NO: 100.
- 12. The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein said peptide sequence consists of SEQ ID NO: 101.
- 13. The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein said peptide sequence consists of SEQ ID NO: 102.
- 14. The isolated antibody of claim 1 wherein said peptide sequence consists of SEQ ID NO: 103.

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